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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00422 080720 Z

20
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 PC-04 /122 W
---------- 011761
R 041243 Z APR 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9883
INFO USINT CAIRO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR LY EG
SUBJECT: SADAT VISIT TO LAR

REF: TRIPOLI 0419

1. OUR IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT QADHAFI- SADAT TALKS WITH AGLEY WAS REINFORCED BY EXTRAORDINARY TV COVERAGE EVENING OF APRIL 3 OF SADAT' S DEPARTURE EARLIER THAT DAY. BRIEF FOOTAGE SHOWN OF SADAT WITH QADHAFI AND JALLUD IN TIA VIP LOUNGE HAD EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SITTING, SMILING RATHER SHEEPISHLY AT CAMERA , WHILE QADHAFI AND JALLUD SLUMPED DOWN IN CHAIRS FLANKING EGYPTIAN GUEST AND OSTENTATIOUSLY READ NEWSPAPERS* TV FAILED SERVE UP USUAL FARE OF EXCHANGES OF EMBRACES AND CORDIAL LEAVETAKING. MORNING PRESS APRIL 4 DEVOTES HEADLINES TO FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA AND SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION IN UN, CARRIES PICTURE OF SOBER QADHAFI SHAKING HANDS WITH DEPARTING GUEST OVER REPORT THAT SADAT WAS SEEN OFF BY QADHAFI, " SOME RCC MEMBERS," AND OTHERS AFTER THIRD MEETING APRIL 3 THAT LASTED 45 MINUTES AND ENDED JUST 45 MINUTES BEFORE SADAT EMPLANED FOR CAIRO.

2. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT TRIPOLI' S EDITORIAL
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WRITERS OBVIOUSLY HAD NOT RECEIVED THEIR MARCHING ORDERS BEFORE GOING TO PRESS APRIL 3. BOTH AL- FAJR AND AL- BALAGH COMMENTED ALONG LINES THAT ON- GOING, LENGTHY, (SIC) VISIT BY SADAT WOULD LEAD TO GREAT THINGS VIS- A- VIS FAR AND EGYPTIAN- LIBYAN UNITY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AL- FAJR' S EDITORIAL APRIL 4 IS TURGID RE- HASH ABOUT NEED FOR ALL ARABS TO PULL UP THEIR SOCKS, ETC.

3. MEANWHILE AND VERY CURIOUSLY, MEDIA EVENING APRIL 3 AND MORNING APRIL 4 REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON CONTINUING MEETINGS OF JOINT LIBYAN- EGYPTIAN COMMITTEES DEALING WITH CONSTITUTION, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMY, AND EDUCATION AND INFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE AMONG FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT QADHAFI AND HIS CHUMS ARE NOT ABOVE PUTTING ON SHOW FOR PUBLIC AT TIA, WE ARE HARD- PRESSED TO EXPLAIN THESE SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN AS INDICATORS THAT QADHAFI AND SADAT HAVE HAD A SQUABBLE IF NOT A QUARREL, CAUSE UNKNOWN. ONE GUESS NEVERTHELESS IS THAT CAUSE IS THE PACE OF PROMISED EGYPTIAN / LIBYAN UNION.
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